Subject: Re: Firm Client: Town of Wrightsville Beach
Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 5:04:41 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Mark Williams
To: Susan Renton
CC: Grady Richardson
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.jpg

Susan,

Thank you.

I want to be equally clear about where this stands. I submitted this public-records request to the Town on **June 30, 2026**. The Town acknowledged it that day and forwarded it to the Chief of Police. It is now **thirty-six days later**, and I have received no records, no completion date, and no cited exemption — only, again, an assurance that records will come "as soon as possible."

For context: across the comparable ALPR requests I have filed with North Carolina public agencies this summer, the substantial majority have **substantively responded within roughly eighteen days** — several in a week or less, and one large university in three. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132-6(a) holds all of them to the same standard: public records must be produced "as promptly as possible." Thirty-six days, with nothing beyond an acknowledgment, is difficult to reconcile with that standard when peer agencies have completed the identical request in a fraction of the time.

Two points on scope. First, the request is for **public records under Chapter 132**, not only those the Town regards as "publicly available." If the Town withholds any record or portion, the statute requires that it cite the specific exemption and produce all reasonably segregable non-exempt material. Second — and I offer this to make the Town's task easier, not harder — if the Town operates **no ALPR or Flock system**, a single sentence to that effect, in writing, resolves the bulk of this request immediately. That option has been available since June 30.

Accordingly, and consistent with the follow-up already sent to the Town, I ask that **by August 14, 2026** the Town provide (a) the responsive records, (b) written confirmation that it operates no ALPR system, or (c) a firm completion date together with the statutory basis for anything withheld. I would prefer to resolve this cooperatively, including through pre-litigation mediation under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-38.3E if that would help. Absent a substantive response, I will evaluate the remedy available under § 132-9, including the recovery of costs and reasonable attorneys' fees under § 132-9(c).

I appreciate your office's attention and look forward to the Town's response.

Respectfully,

~Mark

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From: Susan Renton <[redacted]>

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 4:27 PM
To: Mark Williams <mwilliams@ricefamilylaw.com>
Cc: Grady Richardson <[redacted]>
Subject: Firm Client: Town of Wrightsville Beach

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Mark,

Good afternoon. As I believe you know, we represent the Town of Wrightsville Beach. I understand that you are looking for a response to a public records request.

Please be assured the Town will respond to your request as soon as possible. It is reviewing and assembling any responsive, publicly available records. We will let you know when we have records ready for you.

Please direct any further correspondence solely to our office.

Thank you,
Susan

—
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